

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BACKED BY TWO INSTITUTIONS FILMS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES
BEGIN THIRD SEASON ON WEST FIFTY-THIRD STREET

The New York Public Library and The Museum of Modern Art are resuming their joint venture in provocative film programming with the "What's Happening?" series which begins October 1. The weekly program of highly controversial film essays on current social and political issues plays Tuesdays at noon at the Donnell Library Center and repeats Wednesdays at 2 P.M. at the Museum. The two neighboring institutions started this collaboration three years ago and William Sloan, Film Librarian for The New York Public Library, is Program Director.

Mr. Sloan selects social documentaries which are, as a rule, not readily available to the public. Culled from a variety of international sources, they represent varying individual points of view. The programs for the month of October, Mr. Sloan points out, indicate the types of issues and interpretive film reporting that characterize the "What's Happening?" series.

The first film is a muckracking exposé on the dangers of methadone maintenance programs for narcotics addicts. Methadone, An American Way of Dealing, shot by two midwest filmmakers in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio, is unlike many documentaries of this genre in that it not only reveals problems but points to sane and humane solutions.

The second film in the series (showing October 8 and 9) is a study of North American Indian life made by the National Film Board of Canada. Cree Hunters of Mistassini follows three families of Cree Indians through a season of hunting for beaver and living off the land in the far north of Quebec.

(more)

"It is one of the most fascinating studies of contemporary Indian life that I know of," commented Sloan. Their way of life is apt to disappear, the result of the ecological devastation that will come about through the building of vast dams and hydroelectric installations that are planned for the region.

The third documentary in the series, Nana, Mom and Me to be shown October 15 and 16, is an autobiographical study by an independent filmmaker, Amalie Rothschild. It explores the values and life styles of three generations in the filmmaker's own family -- those of her grandmother, her mother, and herself. The film, shot at the Rothschild home in Baltimore, is a study of the changing mores within an American family.

The fourth program of the month (October 22 and 23) is an hour long ecological special by James Rich on the dangers of industrial pollution. His film Earth People features such leaders as U Thant, Ralph Nader, Pete Seeger, and Ed Mitchell, who discuss conservation problems.

Admission to the showings at the Donnell Library (20 West 53 Street) Tuesdays at noon is free; admission to the films as well as to the Museum on Wednesday is on a pay-what-you-wish basis. The series will run every week from October to June.

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